

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

A fixing device, comprising:

a heating member for heating a toner image;

a pressure applying member arranged to face a heating member;

an urging member for urging the pressure applying member toward the heating member; and

a changeover device to increase the urging power of the urging member ~~so that~~ under a pressure contact condition in which the pressure applying member is brought in pressure contact with the heating member ~~during a pressure contact condition~~ and to reduce the urging power of the urging member ~~so that~~ under a pressure released condition in which the pressure applying member is separated from the heating member ~~during a pressure released condition,~~

wherein the urging power of the urging member under the pressure released condition is lower than that under the pressure contact condition, and

wherein the changeover device comprises a stop member to limit movement of the pressure applying member ~~to move~~ toward the heating member, under urging by the urging member, ~~so that the pressure applying member is separated away from the heating~~

~~member by the stop member during~~ under the pressure released condition.

Claim 2 (Original)

The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the stop member limits the length of the urging member.

Claim 3 (Original)

The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the pressure applying member has a supporting shaft, the urging member is a spring, and the changeover device has a shifting member, and wherein one end of the spring comes in contact with the shifting member, the other end of the spring comes in contact with one side of the supporting shaft and the opposite side of the supporting shaft is adapted to be held by the stop member.

Claim 4 (Original)

The fixing device of claim 3, wherein the spring has a spring receptor at both ends thereof.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)

The fixing device of claim 3, wherein the opposite side of the supporting shaft is not held by the stop member ~~during~~ under the pressure contact condition and the opposite side of the supporting shaft is held by the stop member ~~during~~ under the pressure released condition.

Claim 6 (Original)

The fixing device of claim 3, wherein the stop member and the shifting member of the changeover device are made in one body so that the stop member moves together with the shifting member.

Claim 7 (Original)

The fixing device of claim 6, wherein the stop member and the shifting member form a groove section in which the spring and the supporting shaft are incorporated.

Claim 8 (Original)

The fixing device of claim 6, wherein the shifting member comprises a cam and a lever.

Claim 9 (New)

The fixing device of claim 1, wherein a part of the pressure applying member comes into contact with the stop member under the pressure released condition.

Claim 10 (New)

The fixing device of claim 9, wherein the part of the pressure applying member is the supporting shaft of the pressure applying member.

Claim 11 (New)

The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the pressure applying member comes into contact with the heating member, and a part of the pressure applying member does not come into contact with the stop member, while the urging power becomes greatest, under the pressure contact condition, and

wherein while the changeover device is driven from the pressure contact condition to the pressure released condition, the part of the pressure applying member comes into contact with the stop member, and the pressure applying member is separated from the heating member.